



2009 CITY SERVICE COSTS FOR A
MEDIAN HOME VALUE OF \$242,800

| Service | 2009 |
|-----------------------|---------|
| Police | \$21.76 |
| Public Works | 17.34 |
| Community Services | 9.16 |
| Debt and capital | 5.81 |
| Community Development | 3.97 |
| Fire Response | 3.79 |
| Technical Services | 2.65 |
| Tax Abatement | 0.33 |
| Monthly cost in 2009 | \$64.81 |

FOLLOWING THE MONEY
HIGH QUALITY SERVICES REMAIN AFFORDABLE

By Mayor Gene Winstead

THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON’S mission is to deliver consistently high quality services. The City’s goal is to keep these services affordable to all residents through strong financial planning and budgeting.

Compared to other monthly bills, City services remain a bargain. For example, a homeowner living in a median-priced, single-family home in Bloomington pays less than \$22 a month for police services that are available round-the-clock, 365 days a year. This homeowner pays \$17.34 a month for public works services that ensure streets are well-maintained and safe for motorists. *See chart below.*

How does the City keep the price of services to residents affordable? The City prides itself on solid financial planning and using a “steady as you go” approach to the cost of property tax-supported services – meaning that incremental adjustments

are made slowly and on an as-needed basis. In addition, the City uses a “pay as you go” approach to spending and doesn’t defer payment on projects that can increase the costs in the long run. This approach was instituted during the economic downturn in the late 1990s. When it comes to staffing, every position is carefully analyzed. The City engages only the number of employees that can be supported through an economic downturn.

Because of its strong financial position, the City of Bloomington, unlike most other communities in Minnesota, receives very little property tax aid from the State. Given the history of the State’s volatile revenue sources, the City made the decision for 2008 and again for 2009 to not count on receiving that aid from the State to finance its ongoing services. *See Financial Update on page 3.* Rather, it has used such aid to fund capital investment in community renewal.

Although cutbacks may seem a natural choice in tough economic times, quite the contrary is true when it comes to City services. During a downturn, City services can be in higher demand. The specter of a recession causes many people to put their travel plans on hold. More people staying home means an increased demand for Human Services and Parks

and Recreation programs. Police services are essential in maintaining a safe community during difficult economic times. We may not ever require police to come to our own homes, but that doesn’t mean that they’re not working for us on a daily basis.

Renewing and maintaining our capital infrastructure needs to continue to be a priority. As our city ages, infrastructure improvements are needed to maintain roads. New, more sustainable improvements save the City money in the long term. Since 2004, almost every street in the city has been improved by sealcoating, overlaying or reconstruction. Regular maintenance to our streets also ensures that they are safer, last longer and require fewer expensive repairs in the future. Our Public Works programs are extremely efficient and cost-effective.

The City recognizes that the economy is impacting many residents and businesses in the community. However, our excellent financial strength allows us to absorb some of the economic impact during a downturn without adversely affecting services. I am confident that through our organizational strength and strategic outlook, Bloomington will weather this storm.

CHECKS AND BALANCES

The chart, *left*, shows how the monthly cost of property tax-supported services is divided among City departments. The cost of City services for a resident living in a median-priced, single-family home assessed at \$242,800 is \$64.81. Although a slight increase from last year, services have increased an average of \$1 per month in the past two years.

Public works, police and fire services account for about 66 percent of the monthly services for which homeowners pay.

From 1995 through 2002, utility fees remained unchanged. For 2009, utility fees will increase \$1.88, or 4.99 percent per month, for an annual average increase of 3.7 percent since 2000.



BRIEFING

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Web site: www.ci.bloomington.mn.us

BLOOMINGTON CITY COUNCIL



Mayor
Gene Winstead
952-888-1258(h)
952-563-8782(w)
gwinstead@ci.bloomington.mn.us

Councilmember At Large
Amy Grady
952-884-6502 (h)
agrady@ci.bloomington.mn.us

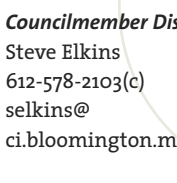


Councilmember At Large
Karen Nordstrom
952-831-5221 (h)
knordstrom@ci.bloomington.mn.us

Councilmember District I
Steve Peterson
952-884-3262(h)
speterson@ci.bloomington.mn.us



Councilmember District II
Rod Axtell
952-832-5377(h)
raxtell@ci.bloomington.mn.us



Councilmember District IV
Vern Wilcox
952-854-1425(h)
vwilcox@ci.bloomington.mn.us

Elected officials presented for informational purposes.

COUNCILMEMBERS
council@ci.bloomington.mn.us

CITY MANAGER

Mark Bernhardson 952-563-8780
citymanager@ci.bloomington.mn.us

DIRECTORS

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Larry Lee, <i>Community Development</i> | 952-563-8947 |
| llee@ci.bloomington.mn.us | |
| Diann Kirby, <i>Community Services</i> | 952-563-8717 |
| communityservices@ci.bloomington.mn.us | |
| Lori Economy-Scholler, <i>Finance</i> | 952-563-8791 |
| finance@ci.bloomington.mn.us | |
| Ulie Seal, <i>Fire</i> | 952-881-4062 |
| fire@ci.bloomington.mn.us | |
| Kent Michaelson, <i>Human Resources</i> | 952-563-4898 |
| kmichaelson@ci.bloomington.mn.us | |
| David Ornstein, <i>Legal</i> | 952-563-8753 |
| legal@ci.bloomington.mn.us | |
| Jeffrey Potts, <i>Police</i> | 952-563-8701 |
| police@ci.bloomington.mn.us | |
| Karl Keel, <i>Public Works</i> | 952-563-8731 |
| publicworks@ci.bloomington.mn.us | |

The City of Bloomington complies with all applicable provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its services, programs, or activities. Upon request, accommodation will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in all City of Bloomington services, programs, and activities. The City has designated coordinators to facilitate compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), and to coordinate compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as mandated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations. For more information, contact the Human Services Division, City of Bloomington, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington, MN 55431-3027; (952)563-8733 (Voice); 952-563-8740 (TTY).

Upon request, this information can be available in Braille, large print, audio tape and/or electronic format.